

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 2, 18, 20, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orino et al. Referring to the bottom of Page 2 and the top of Page 3 of the Official Action, the Examiner states that the controller is only responsive to an external signal generated by the remote receiver and he refers to the signal from Reference Number 8 in response to the position of the collimated light in the remote receiver and further comprises a control loop which he characterizes as the loop from Reference Number 8 and to Reference Number 12 coupled between the controller and the remote receiver but providing a control signal to the controller, Reference Number 12, for controlling the mirror orientation where the control loop is independent of the optical link which he refers to as Reference Number 6. The Examiner states that Orino fails to specifically disclose a micromirror, but concludes that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the system of Orino, et al. with a micromirror since such a modification would have only involved a mere change in size.

We can not agree. Figure 1 of Orino, et al. shows a transceiver which has an internal control loop comprising the light receiving element 8, the signal processor 11, the motor driving controller 12, the angle varying mechanism 10 and the mirror 4. The light that activates this control loop, is identical to a light that is received from an external device, which light is split by the light splitting mirror 5, a portion of which is then sent to the light receiving element 6 to recover the data that is sent. However, only a single optical link, 13 is shown.

In Claim 23, only the transmitter is claimed. The moveable micromirror that is recited, is within the transmitter. Although, the transceiver device of Orino, et al. does

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show a laser diode 1 for generating a transmission signal, it does not show the controller being responsive to an external signal generated by a remote receiver as recited in Claim 23. Again, only the internal control loop, 8, 11, 12, 10, and 4 is shown.

This results in a distinct difference in the operation of the unit shown in Orino, et al. and the present invention. In the present invention, a scanning technique is used for a first transceiver device to send a signal to a second or remote transceiver device in which a pattern is scanned to the remote receiver device to detect the signal and signals the transmitter that the signal is detected. The transmitter can then adjust its angle of mirror deflection so that the signal from the transmitter is pointed at the remote receiver and system lock has been achieved. This can not be accomplished by the system of Orino, et al. because there is no provision for a signal from one device to be sent to another so that lock can be detected. In Orino, et al., if the transmitter signal is received by the receiver, the receiver will adjust the angle of mirror 4 to optimize that signal, but will not notify the transmitter that the signal has been received. Thus, if the transmitter is performing a scanning operation, as in the initial lock for the present invention, or for a lock after some internal force has caused misalignment, there will be no way for the transmitter that is transmitting to the remote transceiver to know when it is actually sends a signal in the direction of the remote receiver. Thus, a separate technique would have to be utilized for achieving this initial lock.

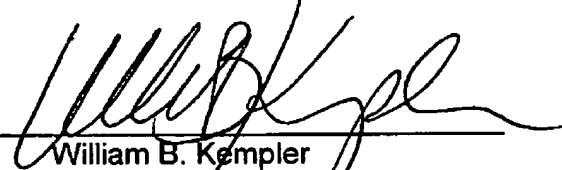
Claim 18 has been amended in order to make it clear that the moveable micromirror recited therein is in the transmitter as well as in the path of the collimated light beam.

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Accordingly, Applicant's believe that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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